

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 19 and 20 are amended.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Kramer in the August 29, 2006 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Kusano, U.S. Patent No. 6,290,310. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kusano fails to disclose a braking system or method with an increasing direction target control value and a decreasing direction target control value being different from each other even when the operating member is at a same operation state at least in part of a control range, or a first predetermined relationship that is different than a second predetermined relationship even when the operating member is at a same operation state, as variably recited in claims 1, 19 and 20 and as illustrated in Applicant's Fig. 10 and discussed in paragraph [0031], for example.

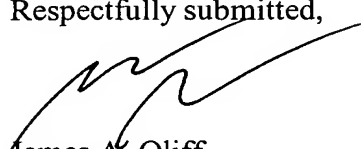
As discussed during the personal interview, Kusano fails to provide any disclosure as to how the hydraulic pressure decreases with a decrease in the pedal stroke. In response to the comments presented on pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action, it is not inherent that the values will be different at least in part of a control range as variably recited in claims 1, 19 and 20. In accordance with the personal interview, Applicant clarifies that the control values are different even when the operating member is at a same operation state, which Kusano clearly fails to disclose.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte  
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/sxb

Date: September 6, 2006

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

<p><b>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION</b> Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
---